



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Campus Fire Safety Month**

**WHEREAS**, recent student-related housing fires across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, since January 2000, at least 143 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires; and over 85 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the students across the nation live in off-campus occupancies; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and

**WHEREAS**, automatic fire alarm systems provide early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and

**WHEREAS**, automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants; and

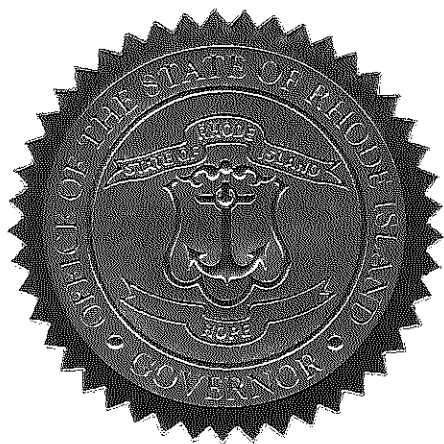
**WHEREAS**, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems; and

**WHEREAS**, fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital to educate the future generation of our nation about the importance of fire safety behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 2011 Campus Fire Safety Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State